

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05319 022030 Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 087937

R 310633 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9430
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5319

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (5319 VICE 3519)

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT VS
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I X PLUS 61
MARCH 30, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM DANANG MAR 30
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE DANANG 301

1. MILITARY SITUATION:
IN MR I, INCIDENTS INCREASED SLIGHTLY TO 19, OF WHICH 16 WERE
ATTACKS BY FIRE(ABF) AND AGAIN ONLY ONE GROUND ATTACK REPORTED.
MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN THE FIRST DIVISION AO
WHERE 12 ABFS WERE RECEIVED INCLUDING 162 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND
345 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE. FIRST DIVISION RESPONDED WITH A TOTAL
OF 871 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY, INCLUDING 32 ROUNDS OF 175 MM---
THE FIRST TIME 175 FIRE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE MR FOR OVER A
WEEK. ARVN INTELLIGENCE KNTINUES TO REPORT RESUPPLY ACTIVITY
IN NORTHERN AND WESTERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, INCLUDING WHAT
APPEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY ON ROUTE 9, SOUTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05319 022030 Z

OF DONG HA. THERE ARE ALSO LOW LEVEL REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED VC EFFORTS TO PURCHASE RICE THROUGHOUT THE MR. CASUALTIES REPORTED IN THE REGION WERE: FRIENDLY 8 KIA, 20 WIA ENEMY 12 KIA, TWO CAPTURED. IN ADDITION TO THE ARTILLERY FIRED IN THE FIRST DIVISION AO, 432 ROUNDS WERE REPORTED SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS FOR A TOTAL OF 1,303 ROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE MR.

2. ICCS:

A. POLOFF IN HUE REPORTS THAT ICCS REGION I HAS FORWARDED TO SAIGON TWO SETS OF "OBSERVATIONS" ON THE VINH HOA PHUONG INCIDENT. OBSERVATIONS OF POLDEL AND HUNGDEL SUPPORT PRG ALLEGATIONS THAT RVN VESSEL SHELLED VILLAGE AND IGNORE RVN COMPLAINT THAT VESSEL WAS SUNK. CANDEL AND INDODEL OBSERVATIONS NOTE THAT THERE WAS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF SHELLING AS CHARGED BY PRG DUT THAT AN RVN VESSEL HAD BEEN SUNK, APPARENTLY BY AT-3 MISSILE FIRED BY PRG.

B. INVITATION BY I CORPS DEPUTY CG LIEUTENANT GENERAL LAM QUANG THI TO REGION I IRS TO VISIT FIREBASES IN NORTHERN MR I (REPORTED DANANG SITREP X PLUS 60, MARCH 30, 1973, DANANG TEL 294) HAS RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSES FROM CANDEL AND INDODEL. THE CANADIANS ARE CONSIDERING WHAT STRATEGY TO EMPLOY TO DEAL WITH EXPECTED RESISTANCE FROM THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS WHEN THE PROPOSAL IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE ICCS. THE OIC OF THE INDODEL, COLONEL DEDY KARSANO, A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE DETERENT EFFECT OF ICCS PHYSICAL PRESENCE, THINKS SUCH VISITS ON A REGULAR BASIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF EXPENDING ICCS VISABILITY. KARSANO WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE CANADIANS, AS CURRENT REGION I CHAIRMEN, COULD FIND A WAY TO OVERCOME POLISH AND HUNGARIAN RELUCTANCE TO MAKE WHAT KARSANO THINKS SHOULD BE CALLED "OBSERVATION/ ORIENTATION" VISITS.

C. A CANADIAN AND AN INDONESIAN TEAM TOOK UP RESIDENCE AT THE QUANG TRI SUB- REGION SITE ON MARCH 28. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN THEM BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THERE ARE VIPERS (IE REPTILES) IN THE AREA. CANADIAN COLONEL MCLEOD POINTED OUT TO THE HUNGARIANS THAT IN ALL THE YEARS OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM, ONLY ONE GI DIED OF SNAKE- BITE BUT THE HUNGARIANS INSIST ON EFFECTIVE VIPER TRAPS BEFORE THAY AND THE POLES WILL DEPLOY ON A PERMANENT BASIS. PAGE IS TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW TO MAKE A VIPER TRAP. CONGEN IS ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE AVAILABILITY OF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05319 022030 Z

MONGOOSES ON LOCAL MARKET.

3. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES:

DANANG SPECIAL SECTOR HEADQUARTERS HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THE NLF WILL ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN IN DANANG CITY FROM MARCH 25 TO APRIL 20. MAJOR THEMES OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO 1) RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HOMES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, 2) CONTRIBUTE MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF RICE, 3) ORGANIZE MEETINGS ON THE COMING ELECTIONS, AND 4) SUPPORT THE NLF IN THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE. SECTOR HEADQUARTERS EXPECTS THAT COMMUNIST SAPPERS WILL INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS TO MOVE ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES INTO THE CITY AND THAT TERRORIST INCIDENTS WILL BEGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. NON- GVN POLITICAL ACTIVITY:

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (LIEN- MINH DAN- CHU XA- HOI) HAVE NOT YET BEGUN IN EITHER DANANG OR HUE. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CONGEN POLOFF, THE DANANG CHAIRMAN OF THE VNQDD/ TN, PNM, AND FWP ALL STATED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE SAIGON HEADQUARTERS TO BEGAIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE AMALGAMATION OF THEIR PARTIES. SIGNED BROWN UNQUOTE BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05319
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730342/aaaaimkh.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980109
Subject: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I X PLUS 61 MARCH 30, 1973
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BIEN HOA
CAN THO
JEC PARIS
NHA TRANG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

